A great Miracle

AT SEA:

OR,

A perfect Relation of a mighty *Whale*, which was pursued in the Sea, and encountred by multitudes of other Fishes,

As it was certified by divers Mariners of *Weymouth* Sayling from *France* in a Shipp called the *Annunciation*, did shoot the Whale,

Which making to Land (as all Whales do when they are mortally wounded) was found dead upon the Shore within three miles of *Weymouth*.

Where the Countrey people (after many dayes labour upon this mighty fish) hewing opened it's belly, found a Romish Priest, with a blank Bull of Pardons from the Pope for many Popish Priests in England and Ireland, whose Names are here printed.

Also the names of the Sea-men who were present, and will make attestation of this wonderfull truth. 1643

BIBLIOTECA CENTRAL

A great wonder at Sea.

THat Antichrist or the Pope is the Beast of *Rome*, hath beene abundantly declared by all reformed Writers; but that this Beast is odious not onely to men and Creatures upon earth, but even to Fishes in the Sea, this age onely can give an illustration of it, and that in such a miraculous manner as never age can produce the like. We will describe unto you the full manner of it, and you shall have it really and plainly related as we have received the truth from many who were the prefent Spectators of this wonderfull sight, and wee shall desire onely from you but the gentleneſſe to receive it, and the credence to beleeve it.

On the 19 of *October* 1645. being the Lords Day, the good Shipp called *The Bonaventure of Weymouth*, being bound for *England*, was bringing home her Merchandize from *France*, which was Wines, Linnen-Cloth, and abundance of Walnuts: the day was very fair, and no winde stirring, so that the Ship for above three hours space lay hulling upon the Seas, being not able to move either one way or other, for want of winde, although shee was full Sayled and prepared to take the advantage of every Gale. Being put to some inconveniencie by reason of this great Calme, the Sea-men for the present had nothing elſe to do but to look about them, many of them, as the maner is at Sea, wishing rather for a Tempeſt, then being Wind-bound to stare about them, and doe nothing, when behold not farre from them they saw a mighty rowling, and working upon the waters; and being amazed at the strangeneſſe of the sight, they called unto one another, and were all come above Board, expecting what should occasion so strange a motion in the water, they found it to draw nearer to them, which made them the more eager to apprehend the cauſe, at length they perceived it to be a Whale, and that of no small proportion, but (as it were the Leviathan of the Sea) to transcend all other Whales in length and compaſſe. The Whale made towards the Shipp, which

put the Mariners into a great fear, being not able to get from it, but they perceived the Monster of the Sea to come to them rather for refuge, then offence, for they saw it was followed by a infinite company of other Fish, as if all the fishes of the Sea were in the pursuance of it: There were to be seen Fishes of all sorts, onely the Remora was absent, which the Sea-men afterwards conceived was got under their Ship. There was the Sword-Fish, the Thornbacke armed with his Prickles, the faire Balena, the filthy Phocæ, and such a fry of Sea-Monsters (the old ones following after) as the like was never seen nor can be represented, but onely by those men who were the Spectators of it. In a most violent manner they did beat against the Whale, making a most hideous and fearfull noyse, and falling upon her, they made what haste she could to get from them: some of these fishes were in one shape, and some in another, but all most wonderfull to behold, who in great fury did use whatsoever weapons of offence that nature had afforded them to assault this Whale: nay, many of them were so eager in their fight, that they were seen to leap above the water, and as if they had gained an advantage of strength, they did throw themselves with greater rage against it, who being but one against so many thousands, was not able to withstand their fury, but making a most terrible cry, did what she could to come near the Ship. On this the amazed and distracted Sea-men, fearing the Whale should overturn their ship, and so drowne them all, discharged divers of their muskets against it, which it seemeth took effect, for presently they saw so great store of Blood that the sea was much coloured, and the Whale which before seemed to draw more near the Ship for a safety, did now steer another course through the bloody and foaming waters. The infinite shoales of fish, which in incredible numbers did follow the Whale, were no way dismayed at the noise of the Muskets, nor at the fire which was given, but perceiving the wounded Whale to make away from the Ship, in greedy throng they pressed after it.

This made the Sea-men to wonder more, for many of them whose Names are here subscribed, having been often at Sea, never beheld the like thing before, nor never saw such diversity of pertenuous Fishes, following troupe on troupe, one after another, as if they were in consultation who first should exercise their greatest fury and revenge upon it; Besides, they do professe, that it did increase their wonder, to see this constellation which is against the usuall way of nature, it being common

mon and ordinary for the Whale to pursue other Fishes, and to devour them, and nor to see a multitude of other Fishes (as if they were confederate all in one obligation) to pursue the Whale, and to do the uttermost of their endeavour to destroy it. In this manner they followed the Whale, and used what violence they could against it, as far as their eyes could reach, the sea bearing up and down, and the waters labouring as they passed through them, yet still in cholerick tumults pursued the chase, leaving a great trale upon the waters, which for a long way was to be seen as they passed.

By this the evening coming on, the winde did begin to rise, which blowing from the South-East was very welcome to the Seamen, who making their best advantage of it, they came on the next morning (being Munday *Octob.* 20. 1645.) unto *Weymouth*, where they were no sooner landed but they understood that a Whale of a mighty bigness was cast up three miles from that place, who coming in with the Tide, and being sorely wounded with Musket shots, did make what haste she could to Land, and finding the Tyde to forsake her, she made a mighty roar, that the noise thereof (as the countrey people do report) was heard two miles from it: on the next morning she was found dead, like a mighty ruine lying all along upon the shore, the countrey people coming from all places in multitudes to behold it.

On Friday following these Sea-men (having dispatched their businesse at Weymouth, went nine of them together in one company to see the Whale, and the rather because they did truly conjecture it to be the same Whale which on Sunday before they saw pursued by such monstrous multitudes of fishes; conceiving also that by reason of the many wounds which she received by the shots from the Muskets, that she made haste to the next shore to dye on, for the Whale, although when she is living will be covered with the Sea, yet when

when she feeleth death coming on, she doth renounce that watery Element, and will admit no coverture but the wide Vault of Heaven. These mariners being come they found the Countrey people very active in cutting up the Whale, some busie on one part of the body, some on another, the better sort standing by and wondring at the mighty compasse and proportion of it, and encouraging the Countrey people to proceed in their unaccustomed work. The honest people partaked in the labour, the better sort in the profit, and all in the grievousnesse of the smell, which to speake the truth was so excessive, that if it be true Philosophy, that a violent subject or sensible doth destroy the Sensory or the sense, it may be a question whether these Noses can ever have the capacity of tenting any thing that is sweet again. Had you been there you might haue seen Greenland near Weymouth, such a noise and a quarter they make when they do hew the Whales in peeces in that Northern Climate, where there is but one night and one day in a whole year.

Their strength being lost with labour, and their spirits with the odious importunity of the increasing savour which proceeded from the corruption of that mighty Carkasse, they relieve themselves (according to the accustomed practice) with the strength of Hot-Waters: and now being armed against all ingredients of ill savours, they distribute the fish in prepared Cauldrons, which by the benefit of the fire must be improved into Oyle,

While the labourers are boyling the Fish, the Merchants are compounding for the Spelme or seed thereof; and this commonly is called Parmacity, some part thereof they design to *Falmouth*, some part to *Exeter*, some part to *Weymouth*, and very like some part to *Bristoll* and *London*:

The belly of this Whale being opened, and the vast Ribs being taken asunder there was discovered in the Bowels of

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it a man, who it seemes had not long lain buried, his head was shaven, he was surely some Priest, and the hair on his Crown since his death was not much grown.

They found also with this man a black Box made of Lether, wherein were divers Pardons for severall Papists now in *England* and in *Ireland*, as for *John Flower* and *Humphrey Vaux* in *England* (it is thought that this *Vaux* is of kin to *Guido Vaux*, who indeavoured to have blown up the Parliament House in the yeare 1605.) Also many Pardons for Papists in *Ireland*, who have laboured to the uttermost of their endeavours to blow it up again, as to one *Preston*, the same who is now expected to come over into *England* with Forces; also an exhortation to him to proceed in the Wars he had undertaken, with assurance of the benediction of his Holinesse. A Pardon for one *Mulkerry*, a Pardon for one *Oneal*, for *Mac Magennis*, and one for divers others, which was read by a Scholler, who

was

was then present, as those Sea-men have affirmed, but being themselves but unexperienced men in Letters, they are sorry they cannot deliver the particulars so fully as they desire.

It may evidently appear, that the reason why these multitudes of Fishes before related did so prosecute this Whale, was by reason of the person in its Belly, who it seemes was cast into the sea by some shipwrack, and then swallowed by this great Whale.

The Pardons were for these men, viz.

John Flower	*Englishmen*
Humphrey Vaux	
John Muskerry	
William Preston	
Patrick Oneal	Irishmen
James Macgennis	

The Names of the Seamen who affirme this, and were eye witnesses, are

William Lelo Master of the ship, *Tho: Chibnall* Boteswain, *Francis Sero*, *Tho: Taylor*.

FINIS.